SUPPLEMENT TO

THE FRIEND.

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THE FRIEND.

DECEMBER 5, 1881.

Legation of the United States.

HONOLULU, Nov. 26th, 1881.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR: Having had the pleasure of conveying to you the desire of your colleagues in the Ministry, that you be selected to deliver the Thanksgiving Sermon this year, and having made one of the large congregation that listened to your able and instructive discourse, it now becomes my pleasant duty, on behalf of that congregation, to ask that you furnish a copy of the same to the local press, for publication. This request is so general that it would be difficult to gather all the names in detail, to sign with me. I therefore take the liberty of speaking for all, as if all had signed this paper.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
JAMES M. COMLY.

THE REVEREND DR. DAMON.

International Friendship.

A Thanksgiving Discourse,

DELIVERED IN

Fort Street Church, Nov. 24, 1881,

—BY—

REV. S. C. DAMON, D. D.

DANIEL, XII; 4th—"Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

PROVERBS, XVIII: XXIV.—"A man that hath friends, must show himself friendly."

This is an age of great activity and progress. It is a restless age and the inhabitants of various lands are not content to dwell in quiet and inactivity in places where they were born. Multitudes are seeking new homes in remote lands and on remote islands, far away from their early homes, while others, if they do not seek homes elsewhere, yet devote much time to travel and touring over land and sea. The prophetic language of Daniel is abundantly verified in our age: "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." In no former age of the world were there so many traveling abroad over the earth, neither at any former period was there such accumulation of knowledge upon every variety of subjects.

On several former occasions, similar to the present, have I been called upon to address those willing to observe a day of Thanksgiving appointed by the President of the United States. My last appearance on a similar occasion, was only two years ago, and I can now most truly remark that I would much prefer to have been a hearer than a speaker on this occasion. The absence of the pastor-elect of this church and other circumstances impose upon me the duty of addressing the united congregation now assembled.

"International Reciprocity, its benefits and relations to commerce, science, literature and Christianity," was the theme of my last Thanksgiving discourse. For the present I have chosen "INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP, PROMOTED BY TRAVEL, SYMPATHY, CIVILIZATION AND THE BIBLE."

In the minds of unbelievers as well as believers in Christianity, there is a growing sentiment or a long-cherished feeling that a better time is coming for the inhabitants of our globe. All imbibing the spirit of the Old Testament prophets are anxiously looking forward to a golden age of millennial peace, when the lion and the lamb shall lie down together. But may we not even now discern a growing friendship among the nations? Are not members of various nationalities more friendly than formerly? Is there not less of a race prejudice? My object will now be to show how certain agencies are operating to promote a growing friendship among the nations.

I. *Travel.*—As I have already remarked, the present is an age given to travel, to touring upon land and sea. Tourists are not content with visits to all parts of their own land, but evince an eagerness to travel over foreign lands. Some are satisfied with journeying along the old and beaten tracks of former tourists, while others, like Stanley desire to push their way through a "dark continent," or like Miss Bird, thread their journey along "unbeaten tracks." Some are content with what they may be able to see while crossing a continent in Pullman sleeping cars, while others fit out their yachts and sail on their voyages of circumnavigation around the globe. Some travel for mere pleasure, some in the interest of science, some for historical and archaeological exploration, some to examine the moral and spiritual condition of the earth; multitudes, to promote the interests of trade and commerce, and not a few in the interests of governments, adjusting old difficulties and negotiating treaties. Since last addressing you on a Thanksgiving occasion, it has been my delightful privilege to be swept along by this strong tide of travel, which bore me safely across two broad oceans, across a broad continent and through scenes of European travel, most pleasant in their review. It is a great privilege to visit those new and old lands and countries so replete with historic associations and where are gathered so many treasures of art, and where are living and laboring so many noble men and women, distinguished in every department of human science, philosophy and religion. I do not wonder that tourists re-visit the former scenes of their travels.

On this occasion, as the subjects of His Majesty, we have great occasion for thanksgiving that the Sovereign of this Island Kingdom has made a tour around the globe in safety and returns to be cordially welcomed by his subjects. His Majesty has enjoyed a rare opportunity for observing the various nations through which he has passed, in reference to their comparative advance in civilization. He saw Japan and China awaking from the sleep of centuries; Siam and India engrafting the improvements of the West upon the hoary customs of the East; Egypt and Turkey amidst the throes of approaching revolution; Europe and America marching abreast in the advance line of the progressive civilization of the world. He returns it fervently is to be hoped, so to rule that Hawaii shall reap the rich and golden fruits of such rare opportunities for observation and travel.

Great and most useful are the results of travel. Money expended in home and foreign travel is not money thrown away. Under ordinary circumstances, I know not how the the same amount could be more usefully or beneficially expended. Travelers worthy of the name, return having their minds stored with a far greater amount of knowledge than they carried away. Some go forth like ships in ballast and return with a rich cargo. There is a saying among tourists, that the more you take with you, the greater amount will you bring home. The good traveler or successful tourist leads no idle life, he is ever on the alert. If detained by unpropitious weather he fills up his spare moments with reading journals of former travelers and the history of the lands through which he is journeying. The fully equipped traveler needs to go forth like the great Humboldt, "driving all the sciences abreast." No traveler but feels the need of knowing something about botany, geology, chemistry, languages, history, modern and ancient, and the vast round of human knowledge. There is nothing like travel to inspire one with modesty, humility and respect for others. It requires but a moment's reflection

to the thoughtful mind that much lasting, good will result to individuals and nations by travel. How much the nations of the earth have been benefitted by reading the travels of Herodotus, and as ages roll away his comments upon the condition of the old world become more and more valuable. Who can estimate the benefits resulting to the church and the world by the travels of Paul through the old Roman empire? Read the Book of Acts and Paul's epistles. It is Macaulay, or some other eminent writer of modern times, who has said that one may learn more about ancient navigation from reading the story of Paul's voyages, than by reading the writings of all the classic authors of antiquity. Thomas Hughes remarks in *Harper's Monthly*, for this very month, that when Dean Stanley, went to America depressed and dispirited after the death of his beloved wife, he returned to England wonderfully invigorated, "his old, bright buoyant self came back again. It delighted his friends to hear the vivid dramatic power come out as freshly as ever in his accounts of his visits to sacred places of New England, to Salem on its 250th anniversary, and to Plymouth Rock." Almost every traveler will be thus refreshed and re-invigorated if he travels as he should. Not only will his friends, but society at large derive a benefit. Let nations send abroad their Grants, their Sewards, their Kings, their public men and incalculable benefits will accrue to the nations to which they belong and the nations through which they travel. The churches of America and England would derive untold good by sending abroad their ministers and pastors to explore the heathen world, and returning tell the story to their parishioners and the people at large. In this way young Divinity students will be aroused to go forth obeying the Saviour's last command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel." Travel is one of the most important and influential agencies of this age, and something more, travel is eminently effectual in promoting national friendship. The more the citizens of one nation become acquainted with another, the better feelings will be found to prevail. This is emphatically true of the present generation of Englishmen and Americans. As the former visit America and the latter visit England and Europe, each returns liberalized and enlarged in his ideas. The result is a growing friendship among the nations for those of other nationalities. There is far less at the present time of that narrow-minded, bigoted and carping spirit than formerly.

II. *Sympathy.*—An eminent English Judge once remarked that no one thing was so much needed as the awakening of active sympathy among the various ranks and classes in society. The same remarks will equally apply to the nations of the earth. It is a subject for devout thanksgiving on this day, set apart for national thanksgiving, that the great calamity which has fallen upon the people of America in the assassination of President Garfield, has been most wonderfully over-ruled and blessed to the awakening of genuine sympathy among all civilized nations. The dark cloud of sorrow which has overspread America has been discovered as possessed of a silver lining. Again and again have preachers and orators spoken of this awakened sympathy. It has been asserted that no death ever awakened so sudden, deep and universal sympathy throughout the whole world. Queen Victoria touched the key note in cable messages to Mrs. Garfield and to the mother of the lamented President, and the whole world has prolonged in the sympathetic strain. It is something for which we should give devout thanks to Heaven, that for once on earth, millions sympathize in common. The general effect has been good. While deploring the great calamity, yet if overuled by a benignant Providence for the good of the world, we are surely bound to give thanks. Is it not better that all the world should be made to feel akin, than that universal emnity and alienation should prevail? When any turn in human events or political adjustment occurs to remove bitter animosity and hatred between nations or individuals, surely it is a source of genuine thanksgiving in all noble, patriotic and Christian hearts. A few months since I visited the Hotel de Ville in Geneva, where the Alabama Court of Arbitration held its conferences, 'on a fair white marble is a statement in reference to the result of the arbitration, which is certainly one of the most interesting events of modern times, proving to the world that Christian nations could settle their difficulties without recourse to arms." How much bitter alienation and angry recrimination lie buried beneath that tablet of marble, and how much national sympathy has since flowed forth as the citizens and subjects of the two great nations have met and mingled together on both sides of the Atlantic!

Famines in Ireland, China, India, Persia and elsewhere are great calamities, but when the great and widespread evils call forth universal sympathy among all civilized nations who shall say that God cannot educe good out of evil? Human language is utterly inadequate to depict the evil and scourge of war, and yet even this terrible curse may be overruled to awaken human sympathy. Angels in human form, clothed in the garments of men and women, are seen lifting up the dying on battlefields and administering comfort in hospitals. A Florence Nightingale would never have awakened loving sympathy throughout the world, had it not been for the terrible scenes to be witnessed in the seige of Sebastopol. Now, as good men and good women are running to and fro, visiting various lands, now exploring with Livingstone, Stanley and a host of others, the "dark continent of Africa;" with Ellis and others visiting Madagascar; with noble English, American and German Missionaries, visiting India, Africa and China, all these unite in one grand company whose labors serve to awaken genuine sympathy in behalf of the ignorant, enslaved, degraded, out-cast and sorrowing sons and daughters of Adam. As a certain American writer remarks:

"We are not pleading for a mawkish sentimentality; we are not after crocodile tears. We urge the cultivation of that sympathy which brings with it to each man a feeling of fellowship with every other man because he is a man—a sympathy broad and yet particular; which kindles at the hackneyed story of the universal evils of the race and is not blind to the most minute details of misery—a sympathy which lets us know we have a heart when we see the stranger's funeral winding through the streets, or read in the daily papers the catalogues of deaths—a sympathy which is not destroyed, but deepened by the wickedness of men—a sympathy, in a word, like that which, welling up through a perfect knowledge of the aggregate of human wretchedness, found its expression when the man of sorrows sighed.

The perfection of sympathy is not the least of the perfections lost with Paradise. The restoration of sympathy with God and with our fellowmen is the aim of Christian religion. Christianity is the religion of sympathy. The heart of Christ is a great whispering gallery of the world's sorrow and of its joy. It is large enough for all the world, and in it, beating in accord with each mighty throb, must be found every soul that would be saved." As our sweet Quaker poet sings,

> "Dissevered from the suffering whole,
> Love hath no power to save a soul."

And again,

> "The soul is lost, that's saved alone."

Whatever awakens this genuine sympathy among the inhabitants of our globe living separate and apart from each other and under different forms of government will promote a true international friendship. Was it not something of this enlightened and enlarged sympathy for our little Island Kingdom which gave to His Majesty so cordial a welcome in his royal progress around the world? The dwellers on Hawaiian shores have for a century greeted visitors and voyagers with a hearty *Aloha* as they came from distant shores and remote nations, and now it is a source for grateful acknowledgement that the nations dwelling on the other side of our globe have reciprocated this kindly feeling of Hawaiians by welcoming Hawaii's King in his tour around the world. This is a marked and much commented-upon event in the history of the passing age, and I shall be much disappointed if one of the good results of His Majesty's tour, shall not be the promotion of friendship among the nations. This was undoubtedly the effect of the visit of the Emperor of Brazil to Europe and America during centennial year.

III. *Civilization.* International friendship will be eminently fostered and advanced when civilization—Christian civilization—extends abroad its happy, benign and ameliorating influence among the nations. The reading of Stanley's "Crossing the dark continent," and "Grant's tour around the world," will set before the mind the strong contrast between civilization and barbarism. Among savage and barbarous tribes and nations there is literally no international friendliness and friendship, but not so among civilized and refined nations. Now the idea is, that the advancement of Christian civilization will eminentiy promote friendship among the nations. "Civilization," remarks Guizot, "is an improved condition of man resulting from the establishment of social order in the place of the lawlessness of barbarous life." "Civilization is, as it were, the grand emporium of a people, in which all its wealth, all the elements of its life, all the powers of its existence are stored up." While I hold Christianity to be be the great promoter of friendship among the nations, yet Christianity must necessarily take with it a multitude of the means and appliances of civilized life. I do not hold with some, that civilization is to precede Christianity in its advance among a heathen and barbarous people, but I do maintain that civilization should accompany christianity. The nations of the earth need to be enlightened in regard to science and the various departments of human knowledge. Through the spread of useful and scientific knowledge, friendship will be promoted among the nations. If the youth of China, Japan and India, are educated in England and America, they will return to their native lands to spread abroad useful information and advance their respective nations in the arts and sciences of civilized nations.

In modern times international expositions have become a marked feature in the passing age, I refer to the expositions of London, Paris, Vienna, Sydney and now of Shanghae, in China. It is reported that there have been 22,000 applications from European and American manufacturers. Who can estimate the mighty impetus which these various expositions of the products of civilized nations, will give to the empire of China! The prejudices of ages must gradually give way before the advancing tide of modern civilization. Now I maintain, that this grand exposition of the results of mind and skill, of civilized lands, will have a mighty influence for good among the Chinese, as it has among the Japanese. Friendship will thereby be promoted among the nations. Let now Christianity become a co-operating agency with the arts and contrivances and discoveries of civilized nations, and who shall say, that friendship and amity shall not be thereby promoted? This brings us to consider the importance of the representatives of England, America and other civilized and Christian nations, being high-minded and noble

men—men who shall not represent the low, mercenary and demoralizing elements working in Christian lands, but men representing Christian civilization in its higher departments. Ambassadors at foreign courts should be men of character, integrity and principle, whose aim is to promote peace and friendship, not war and alienation. The history of the foreign diplomacy of Christian nations does not reflect much honor upon many of those who have negotiated treaties with weak and defenceless nations. The opium treaty of England with China is one that admits of no justification on the ground of enlightened Christian statesmanship. It cannot be defended on moral grounds. Its influence is now engendering enmity and hatred, and the most bitter animosity among the Chinese towards the English people, and is proving one of the most formidable obstacles to international friendship and the spread of the Christian religion. It is a matter for profound thanksgiving that some of England's noblest men are resolved to arrest this opium traffic, an are now laboring for its suppression as a past generation in England labored for the suppression of slavery. This, however, is only one instance among many which might be cited to illustrate the sad results of a grasping and unscrupulous tyranny of the powerful over the weak, and hence the importance of public discussion, and its arraignment of nations before the bar of the public sentiment of the world. No nation, for its own credit, can afford to be unjust and unscrupulous in its dealings with the weak and defenseless. The spread of civilization tends to create an enlightened public sentiment; and that public sentiment will favor friendship and amity among nations. That all the nations of the earth form one great family is becoming more and more the public sentiment of the world, and if one member of the great family suffer, all the other members suffer with it. How emphatically this was illustrated in the late civil war in in America. The effects of that war were not only felt in England and Europe generally, but to remote India, Africa and China.

IV. *The Bible.* International friendship is extended, fostered and essentially promoted by the spread of the Bible. Here is a basis upon which the nations can stand, and to which they may make their appeal. It is no random and unfounded assertion that the leading statesmen and diplomatists of the nations of Europe and America, are becoming more and more convinced, that honesty is the best policy —that truth and honor, based upon right, are the great and fundamental principles, which should influence nations in their intercourse with each other. Injustice and oppression react with tremendous power. How emphatically the English nation felt this reaction in the late Sepoy rebellion and mutiny in India! America experienced the same in the late civil war. Underneath these mighty upheavals of the nations, there was discovered a silent, but persistent spread of Bible-truth and Bible-principles. National revolutions and righting of wrong can no more be resisted than the precision of the equinoxes, or the revolution of the seasons. There will be no permanent rest, peace, and friendship among the nations, until their intercourse is based upon the Bible and its sublime teachings. It is as important for nations as individuals, to do unto others as they would have others do unto them. Statesmen and diplomatists of the Gladstone school acknowledge this principle and are trying to shape their policy by it, and othe principles of the Christian code of morals. International law is now studied by the soundest legal men of all lands. Nations in their intercourse are coming more and more to recognize these principles. They are learning that it is the best policy to do right. It pays best in the long run! The nations of Europe have for so many generations and centuries, cherished such a spirit of pride, jealousy and suspicion that they think it necessary to support their great, expensive and burdensome standing armies, but the evil is everywhere deplored, and I fully believe a better time is coming when they will be abolished, except as a police force among the nations. Let a few more Geneva Arbitrations declare their awards, and the result will be most destructive and demolishing to fleets of war ships, and land fortifications.

Encourage travel, cherish sympathy, advance civilization, spread abroad the Bible, and it will be found that friendship among the nations is thereby promoted. Why should an Englishman look upon other nations with enmity? Why should Americans cherish an inimical feeling towards other nations? Better, a thousand times, for America to say "Brother Jonathan has a farm for all who will come." How ridiculous the Australians are now conducting themselves towards the Chinese, in the imposition of a capitation tax of £10 each, while the British government is sending its war ships to thunder away at the ports of China, and threatening all manner of revenge if the Mongolians should repudiate the opium clause in the treaty! This is not Christian, it is not Bible doctrine, and eventually what is not Christian and according to the Bible will not stand even the public sentiment of the world. Circulate the scriptures far and wide, and publish them in every language and dialect spoken by the children of men, and good results will follow. International friendship will eventually be cherished among all the nations of the earth. Let the benevolent designs of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and the similar design and object of the American Bible Society be promoted, then will international friendship be advanced. Already has the Bible been printed and published in nearly 300 different languages and dialects. This mighty work has been accomplished during the present century; suppose a similar advance is made for the coming century and a glorious revolution will be effected. The combined energies of Christians in all lands, and parts of the world, are now directed to the spread of Christianity over the earth. The cross is becoming the sacred banner under which the followers of Christ—the Captain of our salvation—are marching forward to the world's conquest. The Bible is to become the universal text-book of all nations and tribes. A friendship based upon its principles and teachings will prove as enduring as time, and lasting as eternity.

In closing my remarks, I cannot refrain from alluding to the international friendship which has always existed between Hawaiians and the people of the United States. It has been a friendship, with scarcely a ripple upon its smooth surface for a century, aye ever since the inhabitants of the two nations began to hold intercourse together. Individuals may not have always done as they should, but Hawaiians and Americans have always been upon the most friendly terms. Thousands of American ships have visited ports of the Hawaiian Islands and always been cordially welcomed. Hundreds of thousands of American seamen and travelers have been cordially welcomed as visitors. When the Hawaiian Government has been in difficulty her appeals to the American Government have not been in vain. Travel, sympathy, civilization and the Bible have contributed their combined influence to establish and cement a binding friendship between Hawaii and America. It was in consequence of this friendship that the treaty of reciprocity was secured, and has been for five years in successful operation. Both nations have been benefitted by this treaty. Granting that pecuniarily the balance may be in favor of the Islands, but taking a broader view the United States is the greater gainer, and there is truth in the words of Mr. Comly, our Minister, "It seems to me that there are such grand possibilities to the near future of the United States in such a scheme as would make the Reciprocity Treaty with these islands a conspicuous land mark in our commercial history."

No one need ask for a more apt and happy illustration of the truth of the principles, which I have endeavored to advocate in this discourse, than the long continued and cordial friendship which has for so many years existed between the people of America and the Hawaiian Islands. Let us add, who would ask for more gratifying and pleasant signs of international friendship, than those recently exhibited at Yorktown, where by order of the President a grand salute of the army and navy was fired in honor of the British flag, where one hundred years ago, that flag was surrendered by Lord Cornwallis to General Washington? This graceful interchange of civilities was also repeated in equally becoming manner by the Lord Mayor of London on Lord Mayor's Day.

I have now rapidly sketched, in brief outline, the prominent agents and influences which will contribute and form to cement international friendship among the peoples of all lands. What glorious inspiration do we find in this review for sincere thanksgiving and hearty praises to Him who is the ruler and almighty director of the affairs of this universe! More manifest to-day, than ever before, are the signs of the coming of the Redeemer's Kingdom among all mankind. Those, with clear vision, firm faith, and purified heart, trust on or rest in the promises of inspiration, and look for their fulfilment, see already that glorious brotherhood forming which rises above all distinction of race, or color, or nation. At the head stands the divine Redeemer and founder of Christianity. From land to land the heralds of the cross, bear the glad news of salvation for all who will accept. As we to-day give thanks for individual and private mercies—as hearts rise in thanksgiving for national blessings, let our voices join in lofty and united songs of praise to Him, who is reuniting scattered and severed nations in the bonds of a Christian alliance, and in a fervent and believing prayer, when one love, one hope, one faith, may unite the hearts of all the nations of the earth.

Waft, waft, ye winds his story,
And you, ye waters roll,
Till like a sea of glory
It spread from pole to pole;
Till o'er our ransomed nature,
The Lamb for sinners slain,
Redeemer, King, Creator,
Return in bliss to reign.

SINGULAR DISCOVERY OF AN OLD MANUSCRIPT.—During the Revolutionary war, while the British troops were occupying Boston, and the old South Church was used as a riding school for cavalry practice; the valuable Library of the church was scattered. One valuable manuscript volume of 270 pages, containing the journal of Gov. Bradford of the Plymouth Colony, has been discovered as now in the Fulham Library, belonging to the Bishop of London. The effort is now being made to induce the Guardians of that Library to restore the volume to America. It appears that some years ago, several manuscript volumes of the Privy Council of England, had found their way into a Public Library at Philadelphia, and, when the discovery was made, they were promptly restored. We sincerely hope a similar restoration will now take place.

Samoan Correspondence.

Falealili, Upolu, Samoa, July, 1881.

My Dear Dr. Damon—You and I have been working for Christ in parallel lines during nearly four decades. I have all along felt deep sympathy with you, and I feel sure that sympathy has been reciprocated.

A suggestion of Dr. Turner's has called forth these few lines, when showing him the accompanying demonstration, he said why not send it to Dr. Damon Taking that hint I place it at your disposal.

You will rejoice with our whole mission that the war which has so long been like a dark cloud over our mission, is at an end, through the wise, earnest and prayerful interposition of Captain Gillis, who has secured the good opinion of the natives with whom he has transacted negotiations.

You will be glad to know that our mission continues to prosper despite, the war and the intrusion and intriques of Papists and others. This year the *voluntary* contributions of our people to the L. M. S., besides the entire support of the native ministry, churches, &c., amount to about $5,000. We have between 4,000 and 5,000 church members, who have kept aloof from the war and all its abominations, and 150 ordained native pastors and a large band of unordained assistant preachers.

I will not enlarge now, but these hints will show that we have reason to thank God and take courage. With earnest desire for the richest blessings on the Sandwich Islands and upon your own special work.

Believe me, faithfully yours,

THOS. POWELL.

A Demonstration from Scripture concerning the Duration of Future Punishment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE FRIEND.

Dear Sir: Since, in the present day, many devout minds have been led to conclude that there really is much uncetainty as to what the Bible teauhes in reference to the Duration of Future Punishment, I trust you may be able so afford space in your valuable journal, for the following suggestions, as not altogether inopportune.

The subject appears to me, capable of demoustration in a small compass. I am not aware of any plan in either the premises. or the conclusion, of this demonstration. It is based upon three passages of Scripture which I will designate A. B. and C. In rendering these passages, I will attempt no translation of the words usually rendered "forever" and "everlasting," viz: *aion* and *aionial*, but leave their meaning to be deduced from the argument.

A., Rev. xx. 10. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and they shall be tormented day and night for æons of æons."

B., Rev. v. 13, 14. "Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, unto Him that sitteth upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb for æons of æons. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for æons of æons."

C., Matt. xxv. 41. "Depart from me, ye cursed, into the aionial fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

A. teaches that the punishment of the devil and his allies will continue through æons of æons.

B. teaches that God liveth during æons of æons, and that the praises also of God and the Lamb will continue during æons of æons.

C. teaches that at *The Last Day* the Judge will send away those who are then adjudged worthy of punishment ("cursed,") into the "aionial fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

"The aionial fire," predicted in C, is one and the same with the fire of æons of æons predicted in A. The duration predicted in A. is equal to the duration speciged in B. i. e. æons of æons A. = æons of æons, B. But the duration in C. is equal to that in A.; therefore the duration of the punishment of those who will be adjudged worthy of punishment at the last day, will be equal to the duration of the praises of God and the Lamb which will continue as long as God liveth.

This conclusion is confirmed by the unmistakable declaration of our Lord, Mark ix 43, and 48 whose genuineness the Revision Committee has not challenged. He says: v. 48, "The fire is not quenched," which means according to v. 43, that it is "unquenchable."

Should any one object to the metaphorical nature of these texts upon which the argument is based, our answer is that that does not affect *the duration* predicted. That is one and the same in all three.

Furthermore it should be carefully observed that C. has special reference to those who are acquainted with Christ, but who neglect to serve Him. Therefore this demonstration ought to have no other effect than that of inducing hearty service for Christ, and thus insuring a part in the joyful employment of rendering praise to Him and to His Father for æons of æons.

In the mean time let this solemn subject arouse the children of God to beseech those who do not serve Christ, to flee from the wrath to come, "to be reconciled to God."

Samoa, July, 1881. THOS. POWELL.

American Board at St. Louis.

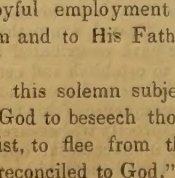
Recent American papers contain reports of the 72d Annual meeting of the A. B. C. F. M. at St. Louis. The Reports, sermons and addresses as far as reported are intensly interesting. We copy the following from Secretary Clark's Annual Survey of Missions:

CHINA.

"The advantage of having christian men as representatives of our Government in foreign lands has been happily illustrated in China. Through the good offiees of Dr. Angell, American Minister, and Mr. Holcomb, United States Secretary of Legation-what is known as the opium clause, fobidding Americans to engage in the opium traffic in the Chinese Empire, was inserted in the late Treaty; and Protestant Christians have been released from all taxes and contributions for the support of idolatrous worship and ceremonies. The first act, decried in some quarters by interested parties, was honorable to our country, and called forth from a Chinese official the significant remark that this clause is in keeping with the doctrine of our Jesus. It is to be hoped that this is to be the beginning of the deliverance of the Empire from a most unjust abuse suffered at the hands of so-called Christian nations.

The second act, the exemption of Protestant Christians from the cost of, and so from complicity with, idolatry, presents a pleasant instance of toleration and generous consideration on the part of a heathen government. Add to these notable events of the year the beginning, if not the completion, of a telegraph line from Shanghai to Peking, indicating the advance of Western civilization, with all that it signifies in the near future, and we may well say of these three events that they mark a new era in the history of China, and are likely to be of the greatest moment in relation to its evangelization.

☞ THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.—The Rev. Robert Mackenzie of San Francisco, in a discourse on "Science and Religion," referred to the expected appearance of a notable celestial visitor. As reported in the *Chronicle*, he said: This is a star which is sometimes called the Star of Bethlehem, and which, according to some astronomical calculations, is now due, and may at any time blaze forth in all its brilliancy and celestial glory. This star was last seen in 1572. It shone out suddenly where no star was visible before, and was so bright that it could be seen at noonday. It gradually faded, assuming various hues as it did so, until it disappeared. This wonderful star is believed to have been seen in the years 1264 and 942. Its apparent period if extended backward indicates an appearance of this star about the time of the birth of Christ: hence its name, Star of Bethlehem. If you wish to know where to watch for it, look some forty degrees to the southwest of Jupiter, and you will see a group of stars arranged thus:



These are in the constellation Cassiopea, and the letter "O" shows where the great star is expected to appear.